MINUTES

OF THE

Eighteenth Anniversary

OF THE

Pilgrim's Rest Association,

OF

PRIMITIVE BAPTISTS.

HELD WITH

HEPSABAH CHURCH,

OCTIBEHA COUNTY, MISS.

Commencing, Saturday, October 4th, 1856.

EUTAW:

PRINTED AT THE OFFICE OF THE INDEPENDENT OBSERVER.

1856.

MINUTES.

Met according to previous appoinment. The Introductory Sermon was delivered by Eld. THOS. WEST, from 1st Corinthians, 3rd Chapter and 11th verse: "*For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Christ Jesus.*"

ARTICLE I. The delegates then met in the house,—the former Clerk being absent, the Association appointed JESSE HILL Clerk pro tem.

ART. II. Called for and read letters from different Churches and enrolled the names of delegates, as the table will show.

ART. III. Went into a choice of Moderator and Clerk.—Whereupon Eld. Thos. West was chosen Moderator, and Jesse Hill, Clerk.

ART. IV. Called for corresponding letters from sister Associations. A letter and Minutes from the Zion's Rest Association, by the hand of Bro. Blocksom Howard: From the Buttahatchy a letter and minutes,—no delegates: From the Tombigbee a letter and minutes, by Elders A. Ellis and H. Rollins.

ART. V. Opened the door for the reception of new Churches.

ART. VI. Appointed Committees; Of Arrangements, Brethren S. Murphy, G. W. Wilder, E. D. Petty, with the Moderator and Clerk: On Finance, E. D. Petty, C. J. Petty. To examine the Circular Letter, Eld. James Malone, Simon Murphy and G. B. Stallens.

ART. VII. Appointed a Committee of one member from each church to arrange the preaching on to-morrow. From Rehobath, Simon Murphy,—Hepsabah, E. D. Petty,—Five-Mile, Rob't R. Ellis,—Pilgrim's Rest, C. J. Wset,—Bethany, Green W. Wilder. Chose Elders Pearsall, Verell and Rollins who were to arrange the order of the day.

ART. VIII. Appointed correspondents to sister Associations. To Buttahatchy, Bros. Cephas Nance and R. B. Petty. To Zion's Rest, Bro. E. D. Petty, to write a letter, and B. Howard to bear the same. To the Bigbibee, Elders Thos. West and E. D. Petty.

ART. IX. On motion the Association adjourned until Monday Morning, half after 9 o'clock.

MONDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 6TH, 1856.

ART. X. Association met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by the Brother Moderator.

Art. XI. Called for the reports of Committees. Of arrangements, the Report was received and Commitiee discharged.—Of Committee on Finance, received from the different churches Nineteen Dollars. Of the Committee appointed to examine the Circular Letter, reported, the Circular read and ordered to be attached to our present minutes.

Art. XII. Ordered that our former Clerk be paid Eight Dollars for his services last year.

Art. XIII. On motion Eld. Thos. West was appointed to preach the next Introductory Sermon, with the liberty of calling upon another, should one come into the bounds of this Association between now and the next session.

Art. XIV. Ordered that an Abstract of Principles, Articles of Faith and Rules of Decorum be printed in our next year's Minutes, instead of a Circular Letter.

Art. XV. Ordered that the next Session of our Association be held with Rehobath Church, Greene County, Alabama, (two miles North East of Clinton,) to commence on Saturday before the first Sabbath in October (1857) next.

Art. XVI. Ordered that we have two hundred and fifty copies of the present minutes printed,—reserving fifty for correspondence.

Art. XVII. Ordered that the Clerk superintend the printing of the Minutes, and also, to act as Treasurer.

Art. XVIII. Ordered that the Clerk be authorized to send the minutes to the different Churches by mail, to their nearest Post Office.

Art. XIX. Ordered that we dispense with the appointment of Union Meetings.

Art. XX. Promiscuous Business being in order, — the case of Sarepta Church was taken up. After mature deliberation, the Association considered that she (Sarepta,) was no longer a member of our body.

Art. XXI. On motion the Association advised the members who occupy Primitive ground, to join other Churches of their Faith and Order, — Also, advised the Primitive Church to receive them, considering them in good order.

Art. XXII. Then the Moderator returned the thanks of the Association for the kind hospitality manifested towards them during the meeting. May God bless them, both in their basket and store; and make the meeting prove a blessing to them and the vicinity in which they live.

THOMAS WEST, *Moderator.*

Jesse Hill, *Clerk.*

TABLE, SHOWING THE CONDITION OF THE CHURCH.

CHURCHES.	NAMES OF DELEGATES.
Pilgrim's Rest,	Eld. T. West, C. Nance, C. J. West,
Rehobath,	S. Murphy, J. Hill, L. Williams,
Bethany,	G. W. Wilder, D. Daniel,
Five-Mile,	T. B. Edmison, P. Harris, R. N. Ellis,
Hepsabah,	El. J. Malone, D. D. Petty, G B Stallins
Bethlehem,	Represented only by Letter,
Liberty,	No Representative,
Salem,	" do
Zion,	" do
Bethel,	" do

Absentees marked thus (*)

	By Baptism,	Restored,	Deceived by Letter,	Dismissed by Letter,	Excluded,	Receased,	Total,	White Male Members,	White Female Members,	Black Members,	For Minutes,	Total,	
Pilgrim's Rest,	2	—	—	1	—	—	28	6	9	13	—	33	$5
Rehobath,	33	—	—	1	—	—	57	10	10	37	—	57	5
Bethany,	—	—	—	—	—	—	39	5	2	23	—	30	3
Five-Mile,	—	—	—	—	—	2	47	7	10	30	—	47	3
Hepsabah,	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	—	—	—	—	—	2
Bethlehem,	1	—	—	—	—	4	40	3	4	33	—	40	2
Liberty,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Salem,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Zion,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bethel,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

For Printing Minutes, $15.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

To the Churches composing the Pilgrim's Rest Association, now in Session, with Hepsabah Church:—

Beloved Brethren in the Lord: According to a previous appointment, you will expect a Circular Letter from us on some religious subject. From which we will address you on the subject of Good Works, which is a command of our Lord and Saviour, to his Children, that if you love me 'keep my commandments," that we are 'created in Christ Jesus unto good works,' which God hath fore-ordained that we should walk in them.— But before works can be called, or, deemed Good Works, it is necessary that they be the product of a true and genuine Faith in Christ,—'for without faith it is impossible to please God," and "as faith without works is dead, so works without faith is dead also." The source or fountain whence good works flow is not from any expectation of merit, but purely from a principle of love to God. By Good Works we understand our duty to God, and to the Church, which is the people of God, and duty to our neighbors to our families. Our duty to God is, to consider Him as our Creator, Preserver and great Benefactor, and as the Author of our happiness in Time, and to Eternity. To love Him above any earthly enjoyment, yea, with all our hearts, we should use our utmost endeavors to keep His commandments and have respect to all His precepts. But as our duty to God is inseparably connected with our duty in other particulars,— the limits of a Circular will not admit of a full investigation of the subject, we pass on to our duty to the church and people of God.

Dear Brethren and Sisters,—As our Lord and Saviour has loved us with an everlasting love, and because of that love, wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in *sin*, condemned by God's holy and righteous law, not able within ourselves to be extricated from eternal punishment in an awful and eternal death. But, blessed be God, because of that eternal love that was in Christ Jesus, and by virtue of that union between Jesus Christ and his beloved bride, he (Jesus) was delivered up by the determined counsel and foreknowledge of God—Jesus was surity for the sins of his people, 'He was made to be sin for us, who knew no sin, that we (the Church) might be made the righteousness of God in Him.' Jesus died for his

people, wherein Jesus says, 'I lay down my life for the sheep,' and as much as Jesus has died for our offences and rose again for our Justification, and called us "out of darkness into the marvelous light of his glorious Gospel," and implanted that principle of love in our souls which unites us together in love to God and love to one another, all of the same family, Christ the head, and his Church the body, all children of the same parent;—for there is one body and one spirit, even as you are called in one hope of your calling, &c:—and both he that sanctifieth and they that are sanctified are all of one. It becomes our duty then, to walk as people who are not of the world, but chosen of God, and bound for the heavenly Canaan, having given our hearts to God, and our hands to each other, to live for God and for one another.

Dear brethren and sisters, should we not then walk worthy of the vocation wherewith we are called. Remember, you are called the light of the world, then walk as children of light. Jesus saith, he that will be my disciple let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me. Christ has laid down our examples and left his commandments in his word for our instruction; he promises to be with his children in obedience to his commands. Then, dear brethren and sisters, let us strive to keep the unity of the spirit in the bonds of peace, to watch over each other for good and not for evil,—to pray with and for one another, and not forsake the assembling of ourselves together.

Dear Brethren and Sisters,—we exhort you to try to fill your seats on Conference days. Remember what our Saviour hath said, "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there will I be in the midst of them to bless them." It is in the discharge of duty, that Jesus has promised to be with his children. Brethren and Sisters, pray consider the worthy name by which you are called, and the honor of that cause in which you are enlisted, and let us one and all come to the Throne of Grace by Prayer and supplication that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in every time of need.

Dear brethren and sisters,—when we look around and see God's poor, afflicted children, languishing and spiritual wickedness prevailing in our land, while they are crying lo! here, and lo! there, and leading our children astray, is it not a time for all of God's people to watch and pray, as we are all members of that one body, born of that same spirit, our hopes are one, our joys are one, and if one member suffer, all the

members suffer with them. Then, there is something for all to do, to adorn the house of of God. Remember, we are traveling to eternity; then remember our responsibility as parents of a rising generation.—Parents, call your children together, pray with them and for them; and bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Tell them the evils of sin and wicked practices,—that it will make them disrespectable in time, and miserable in eternity. The wages of sin is death. Then children of our Heavenly Father, in discharging these duties of God Works, you will give examples to your children, and when our work is done below, we shall be called home, to leave these mournful shores of sin and sorrow. Oh! Christians, be strong in the Lord; stand firm and unshaken, and "be not carried about by every wind of doctrine, and cunning craftiness of men wherein they lie in wait to deceive." Jesus our great Captain and Shepard of the Sheep has gone before, and has told you not to fear. "Fear not little flock, it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom." 'In this world you shall have tribulation, but in me you shall have peace.' Dear brethren—Ministers of the Gospel, Let us exhort you to stand to your posts; — do not be discouraged, — declare the whole counsel of God to Adam's lost race. And if you have sorrows and troubles to wade through, your heavenly Master will stand by you. Then, fear not the anti-Christian spirit, but earnestly contend for the faith once delivered to the Saints. You have to meet with many trials, fatigues and troubles;—wandering from home, — leaving a dear companion and children at home, in tears;—your work will soon be done and you will be called hence.

Finally, my dear brethren and sisters,—Live in peace, and may the God of all peace lead, guide and instruct us, while we stay in this world of sorrow; and if we never meet again, in an Association in this world, God grant that we may, through grace, meet in an Association in that world where sin and sorrow never can come, where the wicked will case from troubling and the weary pilgrims will forever be at rest, is our prayer, for Christ's sake. AMEN.

THOMAS WEST.